



Jos Jottings, October 2024

"The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed". (Psalm 103:6)



I am delighted to be able to share with you this month some photos of the ongoing emergency relief work being done by the Relief and Welfare Department and Mission Department of Jos Diocese particularly in those three Plateau State Local Government Areas (LGA) villages affected by Fulani attacks Christmas 2023 – February 2024. Alongside medical and medical costs support, assistance with temporary sanitation facilities, trauma counselling, and water and hygiene support, diocesan teams have been active alongside and through local churches in providing essential food, blankets and clothing to replace basic essentials lost in the attacks. Here is Archdeacon Mark Mukan preparing with diocesan colleagues to unload a truck load of emergency aid supplies (mainly sacks of rice, beans and maize).

Bulk supplies, clothing and sanitation and wash kits are generally distributed to the internally-displaced village community people (whether living in improvised "camps" in government school compounds, or with family or clan relatives/friends/church communities in the local townships) through local churches, who know, can speak for, identify and monitor those most in need. Here (on the right) IDP women are leaving an ECWA church compound in Mangu Township with food, sleeping mats and blankets, after a combined service/community gathering to give thanks for and distribute the aid received. Meanwhile, below, Archdeacon Mukan (left, in traditional Nigerian dress) gets ready with the ECWA pastor and his wife (right) for distribution of essential supplies.



Jos Diocese reports some NGO's are offering emergency health services at various IDP camps, and mobile clinics have been set up by community groups and local churches, with emergency medical supplies, and WASH kits donated to support the victims. Daa Joseph Longpan, the district head of Mangu township, hosting some of the displaced persons, said, "We appreciate the relief and welfare team on ground for the support given to our families and relatives who fled their homes due to the attack. But we still require more assistance as many of our people are still homeless with families scattered and unable to afford essential items such as food, clothing, and medicine."

We expect the next tranche of much-needed emergency assistance funding will be sent to Jos Diocese within the coming month, specifically earmarked for the relief of IDP's in Bokkos, Mangu and Barakin Ladi LGAs. A special "thank you" to those of you who contributed to Anglican Aid's recent special "Forced to Flee" appeal, part of the proceeds of which will flow to Jos Partnership Emergency Relief.

The new Tambes campus of Zambiri School: fund-raising Christmas cards available!



As I reported last month, following the Plateau State rainy season, work on the water-supply and electrical system for the new Tambes School site is continuing, alongside construction of the first hostel accommodation block, with the school's opening now planned for early 2025. In addition to being able to support this project directly by electronic donation (see Anglican Aid website details below), friends at St George's Anglican Church Pearce tell me that some of the Tambes School fund-raising Christmas cards produced for sale at the "Joy for Jos"

concert are still available (\$5 per card, plus postage, or delivery in Canberra, card cover and internal message illustrated). To order, please contact Margot Halladay on 0455 909 005 or at margothall7@gmail.com.

Joy to the world!

Jesus is born!

A donation has been given to building the new Zambiri school in Pankshin, Nigeria for orphans and other needy children.

**THE ZAMBIRI SCHOOL
IS SO THANKFUL!**

Christian Institute, Jos

Students and faculty are now one month into their new year of studies at the Christian Institute. Quite aside from the other pressures upon students, like worry over the situation of their extended families potentially exposed to anti-Christian ethnic cleansing attacks in their rural home communities, the fragile state of the Nigerian economy poses other practical challenges. With inflation now running officially at over 30% (unofficial measures put it higher), and interest rates raised to 27.5% in mid-September, electric power is only intermittent at the Christian Institute, making study and use of the internet and computers difficult. Please keep students and faculty in your prayers, that in the midst of these challenges they continue to find joy and encouragement in laying the foundations of future life-changing and nation-changing rural and urban ministry.

New Bishop for Jos

The new Anglican Bishop of Jos, Rt Rev Dr Ephraim Gongden, continues to familiarise himself with the details of the diocese and the challenges of taking up his new ministry as bishop. Please keep him specially in your prayers for wisdom and grace as he chairs his first diocesan synod 22-24 November. Please pray also that under the Holy Spirit the synod itself is characterised by godly unity and wise decisions in continuing to shape Jos Diocese as a centre of missional grace and good works in northeast Nigeria.

For prayer:

- Give thanks to God for the effective distribution of emergency relief supplies by the Diocese of Jos to the victims of ethnic-cleansing violence in rural Plateau State and neighbouring Kaduna State.
- Keep praying for persecuted Christian rural communities in Plateau State, and especially for the many women left widowed and children left orphaned and destitute by this violence.
- Keep praying for the resources to continue to be raised up, and construction work to go ahead quickly, enabling the initial opening of the Tambes campus of the Zambiri School by early 2025, and its completion.
- Please pray that Bishop Gongden in preparing for his first diocesan synod, that the Holy Spirit will empower him to lead with vision, godly wisdom and deep integrity, succeeding Bishop Ben, and that the episcopal transition proceeds smoothly, confirming and encouraging ongoing missional work.

To make a tax-deductible donation to Diocesan partnership projects for training at the Christian Institute, or to support our persecuted fellow-Christians in Plateau State in Nigeria, or ministry to "at risk" children through the Tambes campus of the Zambiri School, go to <https://anglicanaid.org.au/locations/Nigeria>, and select the project of your preference. To book a presentation on the situation in Nigeria and our partnership with Jos Diocese for your church, school or fellowship group, contact Rev Canon Patrick Cole on pandncole@bigpond.com.